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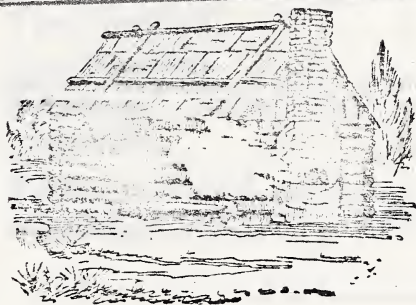


*Calendar*

YEAR BOOK OF THE  
**OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION**

1922-1923

old settlers association  
Johnson County, Iowa



**JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA**  
**1922-1923**



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OFFICERS OF JOHNSON COUNTY OLD  
SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION

1923

President.....ISAAC B. LEE  
Vice-President.....JACOB GEORGE  
Vice-President.....JOHN MCCOLLISTER  
Secretary.....JOSEPH WALKER  
Treasurer.....W. J. WEEBER  
Editor of Annual.....O. A. BYINGTON  
Necrologist.....RUTH OSBORNE

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COMMITTEES

On Grounds—JACOB METZGER, W. E. C. FOSTER

On Program—ISAAC B. LEE, O. A. BYINGTON

On Music—A. C. HOWELL, MRS. L. G. LAWYER, W. J. WEEBER



## ANNUAL MEETING OF OLD SETTLERS' ASSOCIATION 1922

The annual meeting of the Old Settlers' Association of Johnson County was held at the City Park in Iowa City on Thursday, September 5, 1922.

Beautiful weather greeted the Old Settlers and a large crowd gathered for the meeting. Many came with well filled baskets in the forenoon and enjoyed a picnic dinner in the shade of the trees, there being many family gatherings.

After dinner the crowd gathered before the speaker's stand and listened to a very interesting address by Hon. Edgar R. Harlan, the Curator of the State Historical Department of Iowa.

An old fashioned fiddle band entertained the gathering with many old time familiar tunes to the enjoyment of all those present.

The following officers of the Association were elected for the ensuing year:

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| President.....        | ISAAC B. LEE     |
| Vice-President.....   | JACOB GEORGE     |
| Vice-President.....   | JOHN MCCOLLISTER |
| Secretary.....        | JOSEPH WALKER    |
| Treasurer.....        | W. J. WEEBER     |
| Necrologist.....      | RUTH OSBORNE     |
| Editor of Annual..... | O. A. BYINGTON   |



## THE LOCATION OF THE FIRST COUNTY SEAT OF JOHNSON COUNTY, AND SOME EARLY JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORY

In the Annual of 1922, we printed some facts relative to the location of the Territorial Capital at Iowa City, and included some early history of Iowa City.

The location of the First County Seat of Johnson County is also a matter of interest to old settlers and we will give in this article briefly some of the incidents connected with the location of our first County Seat.

There are twelve counties in the United States named "Johnson", all being named in honor of Richard M. Johnson, Vice-President of the United States during the Van Buren administration, and the man history credits with having killed the war-like Indian chief, Tecumseh.

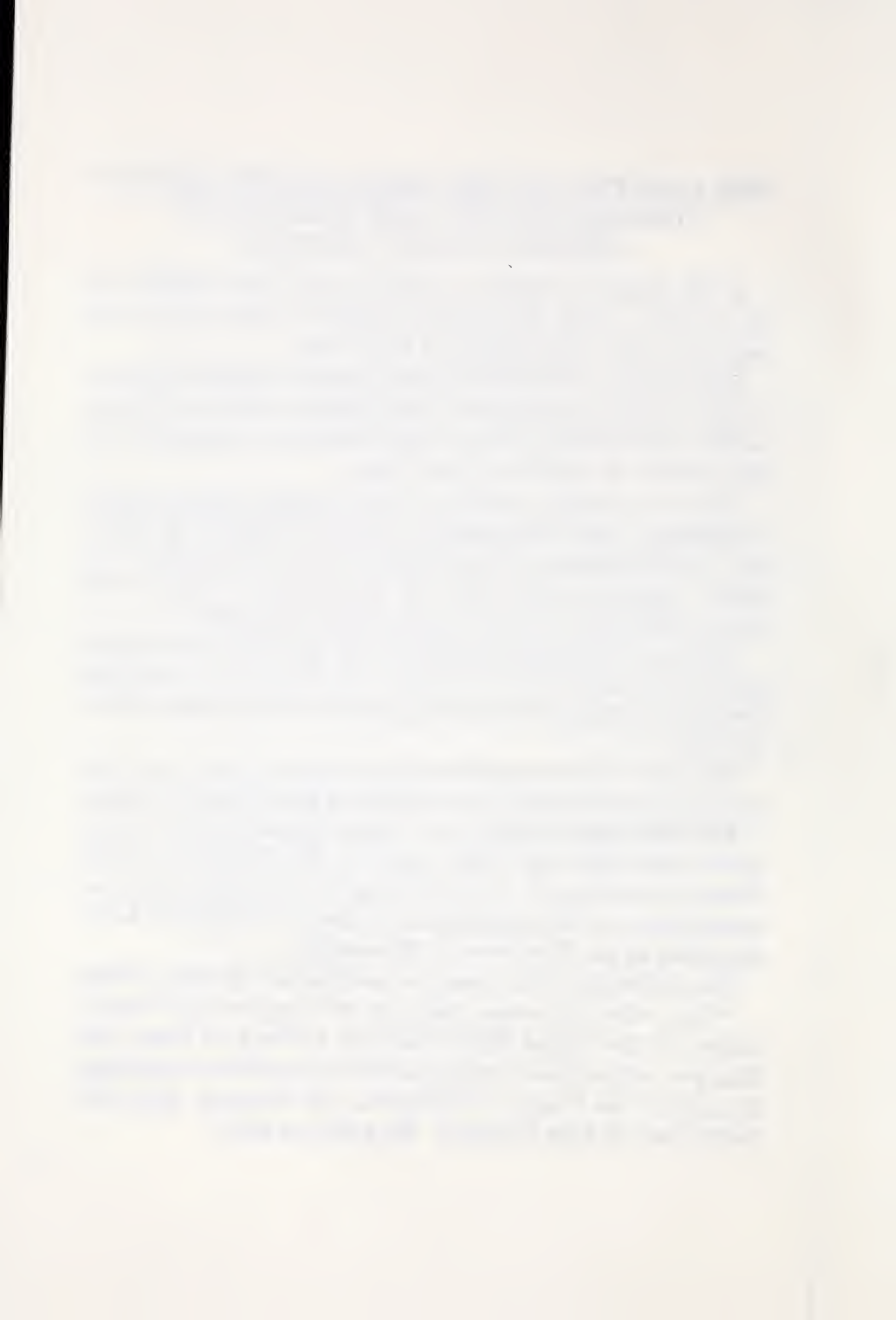
Johnson County was created by an act of the territorial legislature approved on December 31, 1837, the act creating fourteen counties in the eastern portion of the present State of Iowa.

Sec. 16 of the act provided that Johnson County for temporary purposes should be attached to the County of Cedar.

The first administrative act remaining of record was an order dated May 28, 1838, signed by the Sheriff of Cedar County, directing S. C. Trowbridge to take the census or enumeration of the inhabitants of the new County of Johnson, then in the Territory of Wisconsin.

The following is the record of oath taken by him in 1838:

"You *solumnly* *sware*, that you will support the Constitution of the United States and the *teritory* of Iowa, and that you will well and *truely* perform the duties of assessor in and for the County of Johnson, and territory *afforsaid*, to the best of your *knowleg*. So help you God.



The bold and original method of spelling will be noted.  
day of ———, 1839, Luke Douglas, Clerk.”

“The above oath was *legaly* administered by me this —

#### THE COUNTY SEAT CONTEST BETWEEN NAPOLEON AND OSCEOLA

In 1837-38, the contest for the location of a County Seat arose, and as is usually the case the County Seats proposed were for some time *on paper*.

The one called Napoleon, and being the first actual County Seat of Johnson County, was located on Sec. 22, in the présent Township of East Lucas, on the farm now owned and occupied by James McCollister. A log house, designed for a Court House, was erected, as well as one other small log cabin.

The rival County Seat town was called Osceola, but it apparently never had any definite location. The town plat of Osceola appeared on paper showing churches, colleges, parks and a Court House. This plat was prepared and brought here by Judge Pleasant Harris. There was intense rivalry between the partisans of these two so-called towns. Some partisan of the paper town of Osceola, having written some doggerel poetry described as an Ode to Osceola, an advocate of the famous town of Napoleon, which was also at that time on paper, produced the following reply:

Vain, feeble worm! presumptuous boy!

How vain conceit doth lift thee up!

Ere long shall trouble mar thy joy,

For bitter sorrow thou shalt sup.

What hast thou done whereof to boast?

What deeds of bravery or of skill?

Did e'er thy voice command a host,

And with dread fear creation fill?

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Did not all Europe bow to me,  
And tremble when I gave command?  
Can now a feeble worm like thee  
Presume my fury to withstand?

I'll rise once more with dreadful might  
And scatter devastation round;  
I'll cast thee from thy giddy height  
And lay thee level with the ground.

Thy boasted church and stately tower,  
And monument with all its fame,  
Shall fall before my potent power,  
Nor dare to speak thy plebeian name.

My true-born sons shall till the soil  
On which thy boasted city stands,  
While peace and plenty on them smiles  
In the protection of my hands.

Judge Harris and his family brought from Indiana the plat of their proposed County Seat and looked about for a proper location. It was thought that the river bank just above the Wapashasheik Indian village was a favorable site, but the Indian title did not expire until October 31, 1837.

John Gilbert, the Indian trader, was the leader for the rival County Seat. Gilbert had a trading house just over the line on the Indian land, a privilege obtained by Gilbert by furnishing certain barrels of whiskey to the Indians.

Judge Harris, unable to obtain any concession from the Indians, built a claim cabin on the river bank just above the Indian village. They awaited the time when they could take legal possession of the land on which it stood for the



purpose of establishing a County Seat. This cabin is understood to have been erected about a mile southwest of the present house of James McCollister on the bank of the river, and a short distance south of the town-site of Napoleon.

In the meantime, in order to circumvent the Osceola plan John Gilbert induced John Morford to come from Bloomington (now Muscatine) and locate upon the claim of the Napoleon town site. This was done with the consent of the Poweshiek Indians, who were on very friendly terms with Gilbert. Morford did not desire to enter into any County Seat contest, so he traded his claim to Philip Clark (the first white settler in Johnson County) for his farm in Pleasant Valley Township. Philip Clark, the then owner of the town site claim, induced his brother-in-law, Peter Smith, to live in the townsite claim cabin, to hold possession. A surveyor from Muscatine County laid off an elaborate townsite plat at Napoleon, and thus there were two County Seats of Johnson County on paper, but neither had any legal existence.

It was necessary to get some action from the territorial legislature, and in June, 1838, Col. S. C. Trowbridge mounted a horse and rode to Burlington, the special session of the legislature meeting there on June 11th. It will be noted that at the previous session the rival promoters of the paper towns of Napoleon and Osceola had been unable to secure any action on their location. Trowbridge had attended the previous session of the legislature and had acquired considerable acquaintance with its members. He was therefore selected as the most eligible man to lobby through the County Seat location proposition.

That his selection was justified appears from the fact that the journal of the second day of the session shows that Mr. Foley, the member from Dubuque County, presented a



petition asking that the Seat of Justice of Johnson County be established at the town of Napoleon. The petition was referred to a select committee, which reported a bill on the 14th of June, and the bill was read for the first time. The journal of June 18th shows that the bill was read a second time and ordered to be committed to the committee of the whole house. Upon consideration in committee of the whole, the bill was read a third time and passed (by the Council) and messaged to the House of Representatives for concurrence.

On June 20th, the House of Representatives concurred in the bill, and on June 22nd, it was signed by the President of the Council, and the next day it had received the approval of the Governor.

Thus, the first County Seat of Johnson County was legally established at Napoleon.

The establishment of the Territorial Capital at Iowa City, in 1839, at a point less than two miles from the Napoleon town plat necessarily sealed the fate of the town of Napoleon. The removal of the County Seat was authorized by the Legislature in "An act to relocate the Seat of Justice in Johnson County" which was approved December 31, 1839. This act recites: "That the Board of County Commissioners in the County of Johnson, are hereby authorized to relocate and establish the Seat of Justice for the County of Johnson, being first sworn by any Judge or Justice of the Peace thereof, faithfully and impartially to relocate and establish the Seat of Justice of said County, taking into consideration the future as well as the present population of said County".

The County Board was required to take this action within 90 days after their next regular meeting. It was provided that when the Board had so done and their acts were made of record: "The place selected shall be the seat of justice



for said County." The following is the record of the Board meeting held on January 22, 1840: "On motion of Henry Felkner, Esq., the Board of Commissioners repaired to view the several adjoining quarter sections of land to the Seat of Government, and upon examination, the commissioners decided upon the northwest quarter section of section 15, in Twp. 79, North, Range 6, West of the 5th P. M. for the Seat of Justice for said County.

"Ordered by the Board of Commissioners that Philip Clark be authorized to repair to Dubuque, to enter if possible the aforesaid quarter section of land for County purposes."

Philip Clark went to Dubuque and secured the preëmption of the land. The present Court House Square is located on this land, and the quarter section comprises about the southwest one-fourth of the City of Iowa City.

The records show that Philip Clark was allowed \$20.00 for his trip to Dubuque and an additional \$16.00 for his expenses on the trip. It would appear that the pioneer leaders were inexpensive officials in the performance of very important public duties.

On November 19, 1840, the following record appears: "It is ordered by the Board that the Northwest Quarter of Sec. fifteen be laid out into blocks and lots, as follows: Twenty-four Blocks to be surveyed off the north side at present, each block to be 320 feet square, including alleys, and north and south streets to correspond with the streets which run north and south in Iowa City; and the streets running east and west to be 80 feet wide, each block to be divided into 8 lots, and alley to be 20 feet wide."

The sale of lots in the County Seat of Johnson County was ordered to take place on May 24, 1841, and continued from day to day at the discretion of the commissioners.

The report of the first sale of lots was made on October 9,



1841, and shows that in notes and cash the lots were sold for \$2903.50.

It will be observed that the permanent County Seat of Johnson County was practically laid out as an addition to the Territorial Capital, Iowa City. It was in reality a removal of the original County Seat from Napoleon to the City of Iowa City.

From the foregoing record of the location of the first County Seat in Johnson County, it will be observed that the three men responsible for its location and who pulled the wires to secure the same, were John Gilbert, S. C. Trowbridge and Philip Clark.

John Gilbert was an Indian trader and had a log trading house located in the northwest corner of the present Township of Pleasant Valley. It was a double log house covered with one roof with an area space between the two ends. The house stood on the east side of the present public highway running through the western part of Pleasant Valley Township, south of the bridge in the extreme northwest corner of the township. This building remained for many years and was burned and completely destroyed in an accidental fire about 30 years ago.

Immediately after the location of the County Seat, at Napoleon, John Gilbert received a commission as postmaster, but died the next day following its receipt. He was buried on his claim, but many years afterwards his body was removed and buried in the cemetery in Iowa City, but his grave is unmarked and unknown. As a trader with the Indians, he was very popular and seemed to possess their unlimited confidence. On the occasion of his funeral, there was a large gathering of the Indian tribes, who showed every evidence of deep regard and of sorrow at his passing.

We quote the following from the *History of Johnson County* published in 1912: "John Gilbert will ever remain



as the Indian trader, and the friend of both the red and the white man in the early history of the county.

"During the excitement pending the location of the capital of the territory, when the minds of the settlers about Napoleon were all in doubt and uncertainty, the man who had always been ready to advise and labor, sickened, and the care of all the settlement was now to make him well. It was not so ordered, for in spite of all their efforts he died in the last days of March, 1838. Just before his passing a commission had arrived making him postmaster of Napoleon.

"A coffin of walnut was prepared by his friends and with saddened hearts both the natives and the comrades from the states paid him the last tribute as they laid him away in the little garden he had fenced near the trading house.

"No words were spoken at this interment, but the blackened faces of the Indians were mute expressions of the sorrow they felt for the loss of the man who, they said, was always honest.

"John Gilbert was a native of New York. He began life among the Indians in Canada, as a fur trader, and continued the practice until his knowledge of the Indians became very complete.

"Many years after his death his remains were removed to the Iowa City cemetery, but the place of his grave is not now known to any one."

The second dominant figure in the location of the first county seat of Johnson County, and to whose finesse and efforts success was most largely attributable, Col. Samuel C. Trowbridge, lived in this community to an extreme old age, passing away in the year 1888. He is well remembered by many now living.

He was always greatly interested in matters historical, and served as curator of the State Historical Society for many years.



He was the first assessor and the first sheriff of this county, and was the fourth postmaster of Iowa City.

He was sergeant-at-arms of the Constitutional Convention of 1857, which framed the present constitution of Iowa.

The third member of the trio who secured the location of the county seat at Napoleon, Philip Clark, was the first permanent white settler in Johnson County, and lived in the county until his death in 1891. He walked from Indiana to this county in 1836, and, locating a tract of ground, returned in May, 1837, and turned the first furrow that was ever plowed by a white man in Johnson County.

#### THE FIRST COURT PROCEEDINGS IN JOHNSON COUNTY

We quote from the pen of the late T. S. Parvin a description of the first session of court held in this county:

"May 13th, 1839, as district attorney of the middle district, which included Johnson County, we went to the town of Napoleon, a single house, the trading post of Phelps, managed by Gilbert, and held the first court, Joseph Williams, the judge of the district, being a resident of Muscatine. The latter appointed Luke Douglass clerk, and S. C. Trowbridge was the sheriff.

"He held court in the old trading house, having no window, and it kept the sheriff and his deputy busy keeping the doorway clear so as to admit sufficient light to dispense justice.

"Samuel H. McCrory was the first foreman of the grand jury who with all of his associates so far as we know, preceded our friend, the sheriff, to the gateway of the court.

"A petit jury was also empaneled, and we recollect that Philip Clark, the first settler of Johnson County, was one of these jurors.

"When the grand jury had been sworn and charged, they were ordered to retire in charge of the bailiff, but where to



go was the question, as there was no house to go to. We followed as in duty bound, and seeing a sawlog in the prairie nearby, hauled there the previous winter, we suggested that as a fit land mark, and mounting it made our first address to the first grand jury of Johnson County."

#### A PICTURE OF PIONEER JOHNSON COUNTY

"It is not possible to picture all the individual undertakings of the first settlers; a few will be typical of all the others.

"They would tell much the same story if called into council in the present days: a log house of one room, often filled to overflowing to accommodate the new arrivals; the plainest of garments, home-spun, home-made, and food of little variety.

"They traveled long distances to secure supplies, the ox-team making the trip anything but swift.

"The first products of the soil had to be carried to a distant market by any conveyance available, and the receipt of pay was in goods only, no cash being offered.

"Certain kinds of goods at times could be secured by barter, cash in trade being demanded by the merchants for some supplies which the settler must have or he must do without them until cash was in hand. He crossed the trackless prairies and forded the bridgeless streams, taking all risks of narrow escapes in order to keep his family from extreme want, and to make a way for the development of the real property to which he hoped to gain a perfect title when the proper time should arrive.

"His citizenship was secure in the minds of all his righteous neighbors and he only had to demand his just rights in order to get them before a jury of his peers.

"There may have been times when he felt insecure in regard to his property because of the periods of outlawry, but



there have been events in which he took part to rid the county of lawless and reckless characters who would not fear the civil law because it could not be made effective in his case. If the full history of the individual could be told he would not in all cases feel that he was innocent of any transgression, although he acted at the time up to his knowledge of what he thought to be the best thing to do under the circumstances. The stories of this period are not all entertaining, even if exciting, and they need to be told briefly enough to save the feelings of any survivor, and yet fully enough to tell the truth."

"All the arrivals had the same experiences. . . . They would tell practically the same story of the trip they spent weeks in making. They brought stock, driving the cattle along with the train of wagons, and leisurely making the journey with the intention of remaining when they finally reached their destination.

"It may have been that some of the 'men folks' had come on in advance and made ready a log cabin, or it may have been, which is more likely, that some neighbor in the East had settled in this community and the family would take in one more until a cabin could be thrown together from the rough logs of the timber, which then was plentiful enough for such purposes.

"The corn was shared, the shelter divided, and no one thought of pay for such small services. The mill, if one was at hand, was the common property of all.

"All the world, as far as it then appeared, to select from and not a soul to hinder; all the natural resources of the unbroken land, the riches of fields as yet untouched; the promises of riches unstinted, if he but used the resources at his disposal.

"To fix upon some line of attack in his new field of activity, the pioneer spent much time in the consideration of the



problem confronting him, and laid his plans in advance. He came prepared to make improvements immediately on the soil that it might at the earliest moment produce something to feed his family. If he came in the fall of the year, he must expect to buy, borrow, or secure by barter something to keep him until spring. It was often possible to find the supply of game sufficient to furnish the meat for the winter, yet this was not a safe proposition, for in many instances the winter was too severe to find game, and some of those first settlers tell to-day that they had no means of securing the abundant supply that could have been had otherwise.

“Since that distant day the wonderful richness of the prairie land in its game products has become a word only.

“In the language of one of Iowa’s gifted writers, ‘the creeping on of civilization during the last seventy years has wrought many marvelous changes. The man with the buckskin suit, the long rifle, the double barreled shot gun, with the sheath knife and the hand axe dangling at his belt, silent during the busy hours, except when spoken to, yet garrulous enough when over an evening pipe lighted at the camp fire, has passed away from the middle West.’ . . . The steady and unwavering attitude of the pioneer is the attraction that appeals to us; that is what excites our admiration, and secures for him our profound respect, while we cannot attempt to solve some of his perplexing riddles of an economic nature, and his willingness to plant for those who now reap.”

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### THE OLD CAPITOL

There is perhaps no building in the State of Iowa that possesses so much of historical interest as the Old Capitol structure on the University campus.

The 37th General Assembly, recognizing the danger of



its disintegration and decay, appropriated the sum of \$50,000 to adequately fireproof the building for preservation.

It was found that this sum was insufficient to properly accomplish the purpose and the 40th General Assembly added an additional appropriation of \$50,000.

The work has now been largely finished and the people of Iowa have the assurance that their old first capitol building will be preserved to the future generations.

There has been no change in the structure or design of the building, either inside or outside.

The west portico, which through all these years was left uncompleted, has been added. The building throughout has been made thoroughly fireproof and modern.

The dome has been beautifully gilded and the building now presents a fine appearance.

The people of Johnson County should be especially proud of the location of the Old Capitol within the borders of our county.

With the flight of years it will be to all Iowans an object of increased interest and affection. One hundred years hence this building will be to the people of this state what the Bunker Hill monument is to the people of the United States.

It will be the Mecca to which thousands of loyal Iowans will annually come, and the interest and affection will increase with the years.

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### BUILDERS OF THE OLD CAPITOL

It is indeed marvelous that men still live who helped fashion and build the Old Capitol building.

M. A. B. Seydel, who is still living in Iowa City, was a



workman on this building. We are informed that he assisted in fashioning the circular columns in the front portico.

M. A. Foster, a pioneer carpenter of Iowa City, recently passed away and we append the notice of his death, appearing in the *Press-Citizen*:

“Another of the noble builders of a noble institution—the Old Capitol of Iowa—is dead.

Marcus Aurelius Foster, a pioneer carpenter of Iowa City, who with Mr. M. A. Seydel participated in the construction of the statehouse that is now a keystone on the campus, passed away Wednesday, August 1st, in Colorado Springs.

He was one of the men who hewed out the very pillars that now hold place in the classic foreground of the Old Capitol. He was a member of the staff of Mr. R. M. Finkbine, the pioneer contractor, who built the new capitol at Des Moines.

Mr. Foster passed his early life here. He has been gone many years, more than sixty. He located in Colorado Springs long ago, and there owned what is now Stratton Park, which was part of his ranch once upon a time.

He has been retired for years, after serving his adopted state long after the “Pike’s Peak or Bust” pilgrimage, in which he joined. He was an able and popular member of the legislature of Colorado, and was otherwise prominent.

His son and four daughters survive. Mr. W. E. C. Foster of Iowa City is a brother.

Old time friends in Iowa City will mourn the good pioneer’s death.”

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## TWO IOWA PIONEERS

Matthew Cavanagh, Esquire, is the only survivor of those who came to Johnson County in 1839. He is now in his 92nd year. He has lived longer in



Johnson County continuously than any other living person. At our request he has furnished for the Annual the following article reminiscent of the early history of this county.—EDITOR.

In the early territorial days of Iowa, there lived in Iowa City a man who became the first superintendent of public instruction for the territory of Iowa. This man was James Harlan, and he afterwards attained great distinction as a public man. He became senator, representing the State of Iowa, in the United States senate and became a member at one time of the Cabinet of President Lincoln.

Robert T. Lincoln, son of President Lincoln, married the daughter of Mr. Harlan.

The writer well remembers Mr. Harlan, who lived in a small house on Dubuque Street, opposite the northwest corner of the block now occupied by the State University for hospital grounds.

Mr. Harlan would have his fire wood hauled up in sled load lengths and would chop it up ready for use with his ax. When he would get tired and wanted to rest, he would sit down on a log, and would sometimes sit there for a long time, apparently pondering and studying deeply some complicated or troublesome subject, or it may be something that was pleasant.

Mr. Harlan would at times go out into Cedar Township where the writer then lived, and would give a lecture on some subject in which he was interested, and thought would be of interest to the people. On these occasions Mr. Harlan never failed to interest his audiences, particularly the younger part of them, who always were sure to be present if possible.

Gilman Folsom was also a prominent man among the early settlers of Johnson County. He was a native of New Hampshire and was a graduate of Dartmouth College, the same college from which Daniel Webster graduated. He



was elected to the Iowa Legislature in its territorial days, and was a conspicuous figure in the enactment of its laws.

Mr. Folsom early established a ferry across the Iowa River, at Iowa City, which was a very important thing for Iowa City and vicinity. He engaged extensively in farming and stock raising and was the owner of a large tract of land adjoining Iowa City, on the west side of the river. This land was entered from the government by Pleasant Arthur, the father of Mrs. Folsom. All of the large tract of land, recently taken over by the State University on the west side of the river, is a part of this original entry.

Mr. Folsom was a man of very marked ability, as well as of marked eccentricities. He was a very able lawyer and was noted for his sarcastic thrusts.

He was a very considerate and obliging neighbor, and the following incident illustrates this trait. A tree on the land of Mr. Folsom stood close to the line of the Byington land and shaded the garden. Hearing that Mrs. Byington had remarked that the tree shaded her garden, Mr. Folsom went at once to the Byington home with his hired man and said that the tree should be removed, and it was forthwith cut down and removed. This illustrates some of the amenities of pioneer life in Johnson County.

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## AN ODE TO IOWA

The following stanzas of poetry—an ode to Iowa and Johnson County—were written by Mr. W. F. Murphy, a prominent attorney of Iowa City, who has been a life long resident of Johnson County.

He has also composed music for the ode and a choir of trained singers will render the selection at the annual gathering of the Old Settlers at the City Park on September 6, 1923.

We have no doubt that this will add a very enjoyable feature to our meeting this year.

Printed copies of the ode will be distributed among those present and it is



hoped that this may be made a permanent ode to be sung at the gatherings of the old settlers of this county.

There is a land, a wondrous land, where God His richest  
gifts hath given,

Where all surroundings are disposed to change our  
thoughts from earth to heaven;

Her glorious hills, her fertile plains, her sparkling streams  
and forests grand,

In all the world are unsurpassed, it is to all a promised land,  
Oh, Iowa, Great Iowa, it is to Thee our voices raise—

Oh, may we all, with heart and soul, unite to sing Thy  
praise.

In that broad land so good and kind, there is one spot of  
greatest worth,

A welcoming home to all who seek, from far and near, o'er  
all the earth.

A gracious culture there prevails, an earthly prize beyond  
compare;

And charm and grace of mind <sup>and heart</sup> obtain with all abiding there.

Johnson County, Johnson County, it is to Thee our voices  
raise—

Oh, may we all, with heart and soul, unite to sing Thy  
praise.

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#### IOWA IN 1846

In the year 1846 Mrs. Charles W. Irish, who is still living, made the trip with her family from North Carolina to the far off State of Iowa. To give some idea of such a trip to the present generation, we quote a brief description from an article written by Mrs. Irish a number of years ago, describing the journey:

“On the 18th of November, 1846, we arrived at our desti-



nation—a cabin home three miles east of Iowa City. There were fifteen in our party and we made the long and arduous trip in six weeks. We had only two teams and wagons; of course the prairie schooners were crowded and as the children of those days were supposed never to weary we were coaxed and cajoled into walking much of the way. I feel sure that I did my full share of trekking, and can yet feel the blisters and stone bruises on my heels, when I recall that pioneer journey. Bridges were scarce in those days, and the greatest pleasure that came to us youngsters on the trip, was that derived from crossing shallow streams on foot-logs or by wading; and finest of all when the water was too deep for our childish limbs—being carried over on the shoulders of our brother-in-law, James Hill.

When I first saw Iowa, it was a vast expanse of brown and blackened prairie, strewn thickly over with the bones of many animals that had been victims of prairie-fires that had recently consumed them while burning the rank grasses of the prairie.

“The deep snows of that winter and the warm, gentle rains of the following spring obliterated this gruesome scene by scattering beautiful verdure and flowers over these remains. The beauties of spring also dispelled my homesick longings for my old plantation home in the sunny southland.

“Corn and hominy were the chief articles of diet in those first years of our pioneering in Iowa. The winter of '46 was so cold that the water wheels of the little mill on the Iowa were frozen up; therefore, bread was a luxury to the settlers. Corn sold for five cents a bushel. With this inexpensive corn meal, we had for food the wild game and fowls that were so abundant here in those days. Often the wild fowls were so hungry that large flocks of them came to the barnyards searching for food, and the farmers set traps



there and where wild turkeys roosted, catching them in plenty. I have seen a dozen turkeys secured at one time in the traps. In those days there was no need for anyone to go hungry."

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### JOHNSON COUNTY CENTENARIANS

Within the past few weeks two residents of this community have celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of their birth. This is a noteworthy event.

Miss Charlotte Stone, who has long been a resident of Iowa City, entertained her friends on the occasion of her hundredth birthday anniversary. Although bed ridden for several years, as the result of a fall, she has maintained her cheerful attitude toward life, and attained a truly remarkable age.

A few weeks later Mr. Anton Linder, one of the pioneers of our county, celebrated his hundredth anniversary, surrounded by his children, grand children, great grand children and friends.

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Several years ago at the annual meeting a committee was appointed to search out the various important spots of historical interest in Johnson County and report them to the society to the end that proper action might be taken looking to the marking of these spots.

With the passing of nearly all of the pioneers of the county, these places will soon be simply a matter of tradition, and their locations will not be accurately known.

It is a matter of regret that attention is not given to this important matter and we would urge that speedy action be taken by the association, in order that these items of historical importance be preserved to future generations. The committee has not reported.





HENRY J. WIENEKE



HENRY J. WIENEKE

1837-1923

In the passing of Henry J. Wieneke the county has lost one of its real pioneers. For more than forty years he was the faithful secretary of the Old Settlers' Association, only retiring shortly before his death and only at the imperative demands of physical debility and suffering. He was a familiar figure at the annual gatherings of the association for nearly two generations.

He was deeply interested in all of the activities of the association and never spared time or effort in his devotion to its upbuilding.

Henry Wieneke served his country faithfully as a soldier of the Civil War. Enlisting in 1861, he was sent with a company against the hostile savages of the northwest, where he fought gallantly throughout the campaign against the painted tribes.

His service was notable in the campaign that drove the Sioux tribes from that section of the country.

Throughout his long business career he was noted for his rugged honesty and unimpeachable integrity.

He was an earnest and active member of the Lutheran church and a good citizen in every sense of the word.

He will be missed and sincerely mourned by the entire community, and will be especially missed by the remaining old settlers, with whom he was so intimately associated.

When we gather this year at the City Park, we have no doubt that Henry Wieneke will be there in spirit, and the minds of all those attending will picture his familiar figure, and sadly miss his handshake and greeting.



## J. D. BOWERSOCK

1842-1922

Since our last annual gathering Hon. J. D. Bowersock has passed to the Great Beyond. His death occurred at Lawrence, Kansas, of which city he has long been a resident, in October, 1922.

Mr. Bowersock was one of the well known pioneer residents of Johnson County. Removing to Lawrence, Kansas, many years ago he became one of the wealthiest and most influential residents of his adopted state. He was a man of great public spirit and of broad views.

He served his state for several terms in Congress with much distinction. Several years ago he arranged to attend our annual meeting and renew his acquaintanceship with the old settlers of this community, and to give the annual address. But he was prevented from attending by illness.

Many of the pioneers, who are still surviving, will recall Mr. Bowersock as one of the live merchants of Iowa City five decades ago.

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How many residents of this county can locate:

(a) The spot where the first Territorial Capitol stood in Iowa City.

(b) The location of the first farm opened in Johnson County.

(c) Where the first trading house was located.

(d) The location of the first county seat.

(e) The first dam across the Iowa River.

(f) The first ferry operated in the county.

(g) The first grist mill to be operated.

(h) The location in Iowa City of the building in which the present Constitution of Iowa was framed.

(i) The location of Camp Pope occupied by the soldiers of the Civil War.

(j) Where in Iowa City the first State fair was held.



## REPORT OF NECROLOGIST

RUTH OSBORNE

List of names of Old Settlers who died during the year from September 1, 1922, to September 1, 1923.

| SEPTEMBER, 1922            |    |    | DATE AGE                 |       |
|----------------------------|----|----|--------------------------|-------|
| Henry C. Bradley.....      | .. | .. | Mrs. Jas. Ash.....       | 20 78 |
| Mrs. Hattie Hinkley.....   | 8  | 80 | Robert Reese .....       | 21 64 |
| Daniel A. Dewey.....       | .. | 85 | Mrs. R. E. Freeman.....  | 22 42 |
| George Stramp .....        | .. | .. | DECEMBER, 1922           |       |
| Mrs. Catherine Strub.....  | .. | 64 | Mrs. Lavina Walker.....  | 1 79  |
| Miss Mabel Sanders.....    | 29 | .. | Mrs. Ray Weldy.....      | .. 82 |
| Mrs. Anna Grindel.....     | .. | 89 | Herman Garrett .....     | 2 82  |
| Mrs. L. A. Alt.....        | 30 | .. | Chas. Sterret .....      | 10 42 |
| OCTOBER, 1922              |    |    | Mrs. Jos. Glassman.....  | 12 80 |
| Frederick Dikel .....      | 3  | 84 | Harry C. Smith.....      | 19 78 |
| Benjamin Hull .....        | 4  | .. | Ira J. Alder.....        | 20 78 |
| Garrett Wright .....       | 8  | 70 | Mrs. J. H. Bott.....     | 30 .. |
| Mrs. Ella Murray Ashley..  | .. | .. | Will Carson .....        | 30 .. |
| J. D. Bowersock.....       | .. | 81 | JANUARY, 1923            |       |
| Mrs. Bernice Westfall....  | 11 | .. | Mrs. Louisa King.....    | 3 94  |
| John Schaapvelt .....      | .. | 67 | Martin Panzer .....      | 7 81  |
| Mrs. Elizabeth Strabley... | 15 | .. | Jas. Green .....         | 8 ..  |
| Mrs. John McQuiston.....   | 15 | .. | Mrs. Jas. Critz.....     | 9 81  |
| Edward Dvorsky .....       | 17 | 48 | Frank Brown .....        | 9 96  |
| Arthur Anthony .....       | 17 | 43 | Mrs. Anna Cerhan.....    | 10 82 |
| Mrs. Petra .....           | 21 | .. | Mrs. Aaron Albright..... | 11 48 |
| Mrs. Josephine Murphy....  | 21 | .. | Frank Shrader .....      | 12 64 |
| NOVEMBER, 1922             |    |    | Lucy Mannagh .....       | 12 70 |
| Mrs. J. Guzeman.....       | 2  | .. | Frank Dunkel .....       | 14 68 |
| Mrs. Hugh McCleary.....    | 2  | .. | Mrs. Mary Huffman.....   | 14 74 |
| Joseph Kehrer .....        | 7  | 27 | Jas. Kasperek .....      | 14 74 |
| Edwin Shrader .....        | 13 | 27 | Jacob Hadesh .....       | 17 89 |
| Mrs. Caroline Maske.....   | 15 | 83 | Mrs. John Costello.....  | 18 86 |
| Mrs. Mary Mahoney.....     | 17 | 87 | Thos. B. Hughes.....     | 18 61 |
|                            |    |    | Margaret Watkins .....   | 21 62 |



# 26      *Johnson County Old Settlers' Association*

|                      | DATE | AGE |                          |          |
|----------------------|------|-----|--------------------------|----------|
| Mrs. Wm. Sass.....   | 23   | 78  | Ann G. Hughes.....       | 21    71 |
| Daniel McCabe .....  | 25   | 64  | Wm. Strong .....         | 28    64 |
| Mrs. J. C. Wynn..... | 26   | ..  | Chas. Brandstetter ..... | 29    63 |

## APRIL, 1923

|                         |    |    |                        |         |
|-------------------------|----|----|------------------------|---------|
| Geo. Graef .....        | 29 | 79 | Mrs. Emma Wolfe.....   | 1    .. |
| Mrs. B. M. Oglevee..... | 30 | 62 | Mrs. Jos. Pisarik..... | 3    44 |
| T. J. Rigg.....         | .. | .. | J. C. Wical.....       | 6    59 |

## FEBRUARY, 1923

|                           |    |    |                            |          |
|---------------------------|----|----|----------------------------|----------|
| Mrs. Agnes Slemmons.....  | 6  | .. | Mrs. Ora C. Hoffman.....   | 10    56 |
| Mrs. M. C. Baker.....     | 6  | 78 | Mrs. Frances Anciaux.....  | 10    59 |
| Wm. Dennison .....        | .. | 89 | Henry Schmidt .....        | 13    .. |
| Mrs. Jos. Pauba.....      | 12 | 75 | W. J. Vogt.....            | ..    .. |
| Henry Morrow .....        | 13 | 50 | Mrs. Anton Vesely.....     | ..    .. |
| Emory Westcott .....      | 14 | 84 | Mrs. Geo. Cleveland.....   | ..    81 |
| Gustavus D. Hinrichs..... | .. | 86 | Spear T. Harman.....       | ..    71 |
| Mrs. Ed. Clinton.....     | .. | .. | Mrs. Margaret Davis.....   | 15    86 |
| Mrs. Vannie B. Clark..... | .. | 68 | Lillian Ochs .....         | 15    56 |
| Mrs. Mary Piha.....       | 18 | .. | Mrs. Mattie Conn.....      | ..    80 |
| Henry J. Wieneke.....     | 18 | 85 | Mrs. M. Dwyer.....         | 18    33 |
| Mrs. Geo. W. Johnston.... | .. | 76 | Mrs. Frank Slavata.....    | 18    63 |
| Harry Strohmeier .....    | 25 | .. | Mrs. Julius Haberstroh.... | 19    .. |
| Patrick Russell .....     | 26 | .. | Miss Laura Barnes.....     | 20    68 |
| Peter Meesz .....         | .. | 76 | August B. Nelson.....      | 20    63 |
| John Kutchera .....       | 28 | 39 | Mrs. Ida Schnoeblen.....   | 21    31 |

## MARCH, 1923

|                            |   |    |                         |          |
|----------------------------|---|----|-------------------------|----------|
| Mary McCleary .....        | 4 | 75 | Lee Blakesley .....     | 22    .. |
| Adelaide Douglas Cochran.. | 4 | .. | David O'Connell .....   | 22    80 |
| John Cericey .....         | 5 | .. | Dennis Mahoney .....    | 23    74 |
| Wm. Huffman .....          | 6 | 71 | John J. Hatch.....      | 26    77 |
| Mrs. Roger Swire.....      | 6 | .. | George Konvalinka ..... | 29    50 |

## MAY, 1923

|                        |    |    |                          |          |
|------------------------|----|----|--------------------------|----------|
| Jas. Lux .....         | 7  | .. | Mrs. Robert Adams.....   | 29    62 |
| Mrs. Kate O'Meara..... | 12 | .. | Jane Westcott .....      | 2    90  |
| Frank Wyjack .....     | 12 | 76 | Mrs. Wm. Seamark.....    | 3    78  |
| C. S. Welch.....       | 16 | 74 | Mrs. Louis Lyou.....     | 13    .. |
| Lydia McKay .....      | 16 | 77 | Mrs. Orville Snow.....   | 13    27 |
| Chas. Geisz .....      | 17 | 41 | Jos. J. Beranek.....     | 18    68 |
| Mrs. Jos. Rinella..... | 17 | .. | Mrs. John Eggenberg..... | 19    60 |
| Guy Newcomb .....      | 18 | 63 | Mrs. Anna Hibel.....     | 21    90 |
| Henry Karns .....      | 18 | 76 | Louis Eppel .....        | 23    48 |
| Mrs. Wm. Breese.....   | 21 | 57 | Chas. Hadesh .....       | 24    .. |

## JUNE, 1923

|                     |    |    |                        |         |
|---------------------|----|----|------------------------|---------|
| Chas. Sherrer ..... | 21 | 43 | Brewster Gardner ..... | 1    65 |
|---------------------|----|----|------------------------|---------|

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